

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/917,300

Examiner

LaShonda T. Jacobs

Applicant(s)

KNAUERHASE, ROBERT C.

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to After Final filed on march 30, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,6,7,9-13,17,18,20-24,28,29,37 and 41-43.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott Harris Reg. No. 32,030 on April 25, 2007.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 9, 13, 20, 24, 37, 41 and 43 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A machine-implemented method comprising:

discovering information relating to an accessibility state of one or more communication channels associated with a specific message recipient, wherein at least one of the communication channels is a bridged connection including at least one bridging device and a recipient device, and wherein the discovering information comprises interrogating at least one bridging device regarding the availability of a recipient device;

maintaining a data repository comprising the accessibility state information discovered by said discovering and user preferences relating to user preferred message routing paths;

storing user schedule information that defines a user schedule in the data repository; and

routing a message addressed to the specific message recipient ~~to the message recipient~~
based on information in the data repository by using an intelligent routing decision that is based

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on a context appropriate level of ~~intrusiveness~~ obtrusiveness determined from a user's schedule at the time of the routing, based on the user schedule information.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein routing the message also comprises choosing one or more communications channels associated with the message recipient such that at least one of the following conditions is met: the message is likely to reach the message recipient; or the message is likely to reach the message recipient in a timely manner.

13. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium, having machine-readable instructions for causing the machine to perform operations comprising:

discover information relating to an accessibility state of one or more communication channels associated with a specific message recipient, wherein at least one of the communication channels is bridged connection including at least one bridging device and a recipient device, and wherein the discovering information comprises interrogating at least one bridging device regarding the availability of a recipient device;

maintain a data repository comprising the accessibility state information discovered by said discover information operation and user preferences relating to user preferred message routing paths;

store user schedule information that defines a user schedule in the data repository; and

route a message addressed to the specific message recipient ~~to the message recipient~~ based on information in the data repository by using an intelligent routing decision that is based on a context appropriate level of ~~intrusiveness~~ obtrusiveness determined from a user's schedule at the time of the routing, based on the user schedule information.

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20. (Currently amended) The instructions of claim 13 wherein the instructions to route the message also comprise instructions to choose one or more communications channels associated with the message recipient such that at least one the following conditions is met: ~~or~~ the message is likely to reach the message recipient or the message is likely to reach the message recipient in a timely manner.

24. (Currently amended) A message-routing system comprising:

one or more discovery processes configured to discover information relating to an accessibility state of one or more communication channels associated with a specific message recipient who is specifically identified in a message, wherein at least one of the communication channel is a bridge connection including at least one bridging device and a recipient device, and wherein the discovering information comprises interrogating at least one bridging device regarding the availability of a recipient device;

a data repository comprising configured to store the accessibility state information discovered by said one or more discovery processes and user preferences relating to user preferred message routing paths, said data repository also configured to store user schedule information that defines a user schedule; and;

a message routing decision process configured to route the message addressed to the at least one bridging device to the message recipient using an intelligent routing decision that is based on a context appropriate level of ~~intrusiveness~~ obtrusiveness determined from a user's schedule at the time of the routing, based on the user schedule information.

37. (Currently amended) A machine-implemented method comprising:

discovering information relating to an accessibility state of one or more communication channels associated with a specific message recipient, wherein one or more of the communication channels is a bridged connection including at least one bridging device and a recipient device;

maintaining a data repository comprising the accessibility state information discovered by said discovering;

storing user schedule information that defines a user schedule in the data repository; and

routing a message addressed to the specific message recipient ~~to the message recipient~~ based on information in the data repository by using an intelligent routing decision that is based on a context appropriate level of ~~intrusiveness~~ obtrusiveness determined from a user's schedule at the time of the routing, based on the user schedule information.

41. (Currently amended) A message-routing system comprising:

a reception unit configured to receive device-independent identifier uniquely identifying a specific message recipient;

one or more discovery processes configured to discover information relating to an accessibility state of one or more communication channels associated with the message recipient;

a data repository configured to store the accessibility state information discovered by said one or more discovery processes, said data repository also configured to store user schedule information that defines a user schedule in the data repository; and

a message routing decision process configured to route a message to the message recipient by using an intelligent routing decision that is based on a context appropriate level of

~~intrusiveness~~ obtrusiveness determined from a user's schedule at the time of the routing, based on the user schedule information.

43. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, further comprising, prior to said discovering, forming a message that includes a device ~~Independent~~ independent that uniquely identifies a specific recipient of the message, and using said identifier for said interrogating.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art of record (Shavit et al., U.S. Pub. No. 2002/01607757 and Gebhardt Jr, et al., U.S. Pub. No. 2006/0015606) does not teach nor suggest in detail routing a message addressed to the specific message recipient based on the information in the data repository by using an intelligent routing decision that is based on a context appropriate level of intrusiveness determined from a user's schedule at the time of the routing, based on the user schedule in combination with all the elements of the independent claims.

3. The dependent claims further limit the independent claims and are considered allowable on the same basis as the independent claims.

4. Claims **1, 6, 7, 9-13, 17, 18, 20-24, 28, 29, 37 and 41-43** are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
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ltj
April 25, 2007

ABDULLAH SALAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER